

Atomic Energy Commission discussed Tuesday morning the question whether to continue the consideration of the organizational structure and the composition of the international agency for the control of atomic energy.

The majority of the representatives on the Committee was of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served in pursuing this consideration in view of the lack of agreement on the basic political problems of control, the U.N. Press Bureau reported. The Committee adjourned without taking a decision and without setting a date for the next meeting.

General A.G.L. McNaughton of Canada said that when the Committee, on April 10, 1947, had agreed on its program of work, it had divided all subjects into two categories: (1) Subjects which could be discussed very completely and on which conclusions could be reached; (2) Subjects which could not be discussed effectively until very definite conclusions and decisions had been reached on the matters under (1).

GREAT EFFORT EXPENDED

The conclusions reached under (1) had been embodied in the second report of the Atomic Energy Commission to the Security Council, he

said. This report was supported by the overwhelming majority of the Committee. Great effort and great hope had been expended, said General McNaughton, in the attempt to drive forward the discussion of the agency's organization and composition. As the discussions progressed, it became inescapably clear that a definite agreement had to be found before conclusions could be reached.

It had been hoped, the Canadian representative continued, that this discussion would have opened up an opportunity for the Soviet Delegation to offer a contribution. This hope had been disappointed. Canada, which had supplied hydro-electric experts to testify before the Committee, had been very anxious to have Soviet experts appear and would have listened to them with a very open mind. Unfortunately, this hope had been disappointed, too.

"It seems now we are at a dead end", said General McNaughton. There was not very much use in pursuing this matter further until the minority showed some evidence of a desire to reach agreement. For these reasons, the Canadian Delegation agreed with the United States, that until basic disagreements had been solved there was little purpose in continuing discussion.

REGISTRATION OF LITHUANIAN NATIONALS

ACTION VOLUNTARY: The Department of External Affairs issued the following press release on Thursday, April 1:-

A number of Canadian Slavic-language newspapers have recently published a notice on behalf of the Consular Division of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. to the effect that the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. passed a Decree, dated December 16th, 1947, according to which all persons of Lithuanian nationality, natives of the city of Klaipeda, and of the Klaipeda, Shilut, and Pageg districts of the Lithuanian S.S.R., who were abroad at the time of the passage of the Decree, and who had not become citizens or subjects of any other country, were obliged to register at U.S.S.R. Embassies or Consulates as Soviet citizens not later than June 1st, 1948.

FUTURE CITIZENSHIP

The Department of External Affairs first learned of the Soviet Embassy's intention to call upon Lithuanian nationals residing in Canada to register as Soviet citizens in accordance with this Decree when the notice had already been printed in the foreign-language press. The Department regrets that the Soviet Embassy did not consult it before submitting the announcement to the press. The question of the future citizenship of immigrants who come to Canada with the intention of making a per-

manent home in this country is a matter in which the Canadian Government takes a deep interest, and the Department would have expected the Soviet Embassy to inform it in advance of any public announcement which it wished to make affecting the citizenship of immigrants of Lithuanian nationality.

The Canadian Government has never extended recognition to the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic as a constituent republic of the U.S.S.R. The Government, therefore, does not regard Lithuanian nationals residing in Canada as citizens of the U.S.S.R. Just as other immigrants from Europe have become Canadian citizens, so, the Government hopes, the Lithuanians who are making their permanent home in Canada will seek Canadian citizenship. The Canadian Citizenship Act gives assurance to anyone who comes to this country with the intention of making a permanent home here that he may readily become a naturalized Canadian citizen and secure the rights and privileges which belong to natural-born Canadians.

NO OBLIGATION

Similar registration was provided for by the Soviet Embassy in 1945 in respect of persons formerly resident in parts of the Ukraine and Byelo-Russia which had been incorporated into the U.S.S.R. At that time, it was made abundantly clear to the Soviet Embassy that the Government of Canada did not recognize any obligation on the part of residents of Canada

to comply with the Soviet registration notice. The Embassy replied that there was no intention of exercising compulsion and that the text of the announcement indicated that registration was voluntary. The Canadian position with respect to the present notice is the same. The Canadian Government regards the registration of Lithuanian nationals in accordance with the Decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., as announced by the Soviet Embassy in the Slavic-language press in Canada to be entirely a voluntary matter, and recognizes no obligation on the part of any resident of Canada to register.

Since the notice, as it appeared in the Slavic-language press, did not make it clear that there was no obligation to register on the part of Lithuanian nationals who were resident in Canada, the Department of External Affairs wrote to the Soviet Embassy on March 22nd, requesting the Embassy to insert in any announcement which it might wish to make in the future a sentence which would make it clear that registration was in fact voluntary.

HONOURS FOR CANADA: The Prime Minister, Viscount Alexander and President Truman received honorary degrees on Friday, April 2, from the College of William and Mary in Virginia at Williamsburg, Va. Mr. King was particularly honoured in Canadian-American Day ceremonies.

U.K. ARRANGEMENT EXTENDED: Hon. Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance, announced Friday, April 2, that, following on discussions between the Government of Canada and the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canada, the present arrangements for financing imports into the United Kingdom from Canada have been extended to April 14th.

MORE TELEPHONES: The year 1946 was one of unprecedented activity in the telephone industry and demand for new installations and service exceeded the peak levels experienced during the war years. The number of telephones increased by 177,324 or 9.5 per cent to pass the two million mark at 2,026,118 compared with 1,848,794 in 1945. The increase during 1945 had been 96,871. The number of business telephones rose by 54,285, residence telephones by 96,695, rural by 25,648 and public pay stations by 696. Over twice as many business telephones were installed as during 1945, while an increase of 41,682 residential installations was recorded compared with the previous year's additions.

Of the increase of 177,324 some 85,773 were added in automatic or dial telephones, while 91,551 were wired to manual switchboards with the result that the automatic ratio stood at 55 per cent compared with 56 per cent in 1945 and manually operated rose from 44 to 45 per cent of total installations. Of the total installations in 59 cities in Canada nearly 80 per cent are connected to automatic switchboards.